

*A True and Affecting Narrative of Mr. MARK POWELL,
late of Snaith, in this County, who was executed at London on
Thursday last for Forgery.*

THIS unfortunate, but well-respected youth, was apprehended on Friday the 19th of May, 1786, by P. Macmanus and T. Carpmeal, two Officers of Bow-street, at his Father's House in Snaith. He was Clerk to Mess. Hardcastle and Field of Thames-street, merchants, and had forged their draft on Mess. Bland, Barnet, Hoare, and Hill, of Lombard-street, for 450l. 14s. Immediately on securing Mr. Powell, the Officers set off with him for London, where they arrived on Sunday afternoon with their prisoner, who was on Monday examined before Sir Sampson Wright, and committed to Newgate for trial. What makes this matter the more lamentable is, Mr. Powell, who bore an universal good character, was just married to a young lady of genteel fortune, (which he was soon to receive) and who was with him at Snaith when apprehended. And here we must observe, that his affectionate bride, not suspecting the ill which had overtaken her spouse, urged much to go with him; but the Officers, touch'd with humanity, politely told her that the journey would prove too fatiguing for her, as they were obliged to use the greatest expedition; that Mr. Powell was only called as witness to a trial, in which his evidence was of the utmost importance, and that she would see him again in a few days. This modest repulse to her wishes had the desired effect, and, after an embrace which marked the tenderness of her heart, she permitted them to proceed.

It seems he committed the forgery to answer an immediate purpose in trade; intending to repay it when he received the money he was entitled to by his marriage, and without any apprehension of the dangerous consequences of the offence. On his arrival in Town he ingenuously discovered where near 400l. of the money was, which he had left in a friend's hands, and was instantly recovered.

The melancholy fate of Mr. Powell is one amongst the many recent instances which have presented themselves to the public, and impressed every feeling mind with true commiseration. The crime for which he suffered is, no doubt, of such universal concern, that to admit of extenuation might operate in future as a precedent dangerous in the extreme; otherwise, in the present case, the hand of mercy was a circumstance much to be wished for by those acquainted with the unfortunate youth, who (excepting the crime for which his life was forfeited) possessed every requisite which could constitute him an ornament to society. The singular motives which prompted him to have recourse to the fatal alternative---his much-to-be-lamented success in the completion of his wishes---the ill-founded confidence he had entertained of his ability to refund the amount of the forgery---his own untimely end---added to the severe affliction which must be experienced by a new-married wife, and his reputable parents, are circumstances which lay claim to every sympathetic concern.